R. U. R.
(Rossum's Universal Robots)

by
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Translated by Paul Selver and Nigel Playfair

Robots of the world! The power of man has fallen!
A new world has arisen: the Rule of the Robots!
March!

CHARACTERS

HARRY DOMIN

SULLA

MARIUS

HELENA GLORY

DR. GALL

MR. FABRY

DR. HALLEMEIER

MR. ALQUIST

CONSUL BUSMAN

NANA

RADIUS

A SERVANT

HELENA

PRIMUS

FIRST ROBOT

SECOND ROBOT

THIRD ROBOT

FOURTH ROBOT

ACT I

Central office of the factory of Rossum's Universal Robots.

Entrance on the right. The windows on the front wall look out on the rows of factory chimneys. On the left more managing departments. DOMIN is sitting in the revolving chair at a large American writing table. On the left-hand wall large maps showing steamship and railroad routes. On the right-hand wall are fastened printed placards. ("Robot's Cheapest Labor," etc.) In contrast to these wall fittings, the floor is covered with a splendid Turkish carpet, a sofa, leather armchair, and filing cabinets. At a desk near the windows SULLA is typing letters.

DOMIN

(dictating)
Ready?

SULLA

Yes.

DOMIN

To E. M. McVicker and Co., Southampton, England. "We undertake no guarantee for goods damaged in transit. As soon as the consignment was taken on board we drew your captain's attention to the fact that the vessel was unsuitable for the transport of Robots, and we are therefore not responsible for spoiled freight. We beg to remain for Rossum's Universal Robots. Yours truly."

(SULLA, who has sat motionless during dictation, now types rapidly for a few seconds, then stops, withdrawing the completed letter)

Ready?

SULLA

Yes.

DOMIN

Another letter. To the E. B. Huyson Agency, New York, U.S.A. "We beg to acknowledge receipt of order for five thousand Robots. As you are sending your own vessel, please dispatch as cargo equal quantities of soft and hard coal for R.U.R., the same to be credited as part payment of the amount due to us. We beg to remain, for Rossum's Universal Robots. Yours truly."

(SULLA repeats the rapid typing)

Ready?

SULLA

Yes.

DOMIN

Another letter. "Friedrichswerks, Hamburg, Germany. We beg to acknowledge receipt of order for fifteen thousand Robots."

(Telephone rings)

Hello! This is the Central Office. Yes. Certainly. Well, send them a wire. Good.

(Hangs up telephone)

Where did I leave off?

SULLA

"We beg to acknowledge receipt of order for fifteen thousand Robots."

DOMIN

Fifteen thousand R. Fifteen thousand R.

(Enter MARIUS)

Well, what is it?

MARIUS

There's a lady, sir, asking to see you.

DOMIN

A lady? Who is she?

MARIUS

I don't know, sir. She brings this card of introduction.

DOMIN

(reads the card)

Ah, from President Glory. Ask her to come in.

MARIUS

Please step this way.

Enter HELENA GLORY. Exit MARIUS.

HELENA

How do you do?

DOMIN

How do you do.
(Standing up)
What can I do for you?

HELENA

You are Mr. Domin, the General Manager.

DOMIN

I am.

HELENA

I have come--

DOMIN

With President Glory's card. That is quite sufficient.

HELENA

President Glory is my father. I am Helena Glory.

DOMIN

Miss Glory, this is such a great honor for us to be allowed to-- welcome our great President's daughter, that--

HELENA

That you can't show me the door?

DOMIN

Please sit down. Sulla, you may go.
(Exit SULLA. Sitting down)
How can I be of service to you, Miss Glory?

HELENA

I have come--

DOMIN

To have a look at our famous works where people are manufactured. Like all visitors. Well, there is no objection.

HELENA

I thought it was forbidden to--

DOMIN

To enter the factory. Yes, of course. Everybody comes here with someone's visiting card, Miss Glory.

HELENA

And you show them--

DOMIN

Only certain things. The manufacture of artificial people is a secret process.

HELENA
If you only knew how enormously that--

DOMIN
Interests me. Europe's talking about nothing else.

HELENA
Why don't you let me finish speaking?

DOMIN
I beg your pardon. Did you want to say something different?

HELENA
I only wanted to ask--

DOMIN
Whether I could make a special exception in your case and show you our factory. Why, certainly Miss Glory.

HELENA
How do you know I wanted to say that?

DOMIN
They all do. But we shall consider it a special honor to show you more than we do the rest.

HELENA
Thank you.

DOMIN
But you must agree not to divulge the least...

HELENA
(standing up and giving him her hand)
My word of honor.

DOMIN
Thank you. Won't you raise your veil?

HELENA
Of course. You want to see whether I'm a spy or not. I beg your pardon.

DOMIN
What is it?

HELENA
Would you mind releasing my hand?

DOMIN
(releasing it)
I beg your pardon.

HELENA

(raising her veil)
How cautious you have to be here, don't you?

DOMIN

(observing her with deep interest)
Hm, of course-- we-- that is--

HELENA

But what is it? What's the matter?

DOMIN

I'm remarkably pleased. Did you have a pleasant crossing?

HELENA

Yes.

DOMIN

No difficulty?

HELENA

Why?

DOMIN

What I mean to say is-- you're so young.

HELENA

May we go straight into the factory?

DOMIN

Yes. Twenty-two, I think.

HELENA

Twenty-two what?

DOMIN

Years.

HELENA

Twenty-one. Why do you want to know?

DOMIN

Because-- as--
(with enthusiasm)
you will make a long stay, won't you?

HELENA

That depends on how much of the factory you show me.

DOMIN

Oh, hang the factory. Oh, no, no, you shall see everything, Miss Glory. Indeed you shall. Won't you sit down?

HELENA

(crossing to couch and sitting)
Thank you.

DOMIN

But first would you like to hear the story of the invention?

HELENA

Yes, indeed.

DOMIN

(observes HELENA with rapture and reels off rapidly)
It was in the year 1920 that old Rossum, the great physiologist, who was then quite a young scientist, took himself to this distant island for the purpose of studying the ocean fauna, full stop. On this occasion he attempted by chemical synthesis to imitate the living matter known as protoplasm until he suddenly discovered a substance which behaved exactly like living matter although its chemical composition was different. That was in the year of 1932, exactly four hundred forty years after the discovery of America. Whew!

HELENA

Do you know that by heart?

DOMIN

Yes. You see physiology is not in my line. Shall I go on?

HELENA

Yes, please.

DOMIN

And then, Miss Glory, old Rossum wrote the following among his chemical specimens: "Nature has found only one method of organizing living matter. There is, however, another method, more simple, flexible and rapid, which has not yet occurred to nature at all. This second process by which life can be developed was discovered by me today." Now imagine him, Miss Glory, writing those wonderful words over some colloidal mess that a dog wouldn't look at. Imagine him sitting over a test tube, and thinking how the whole tree of life would grow from it, how all animals would proceed from it, beginning with some sort of beetle and ending with a man. A man of different substance from us. Miss Glory, that was a tremendous moment.

HELENA

Well?

DOMIN

Now, the thing was how to get the life out of the test tubes, and hasten development and form organs, bones and nerves, and

(MORE)

DOMIN (cont'd)
so on, and find such substances as catalytics, enzymes, hormones, and so forth, in short -- you understand?

HELENA
Not much, I'm afraid.

DOMIN
Never mind. You see with the help of his tinctures he could make whatever he wanted. He could have produced a Medusa with the brain of a Socrates or a worm fifty yards long. But being without a grain of humor, he took it into his head to make a vertebrate or perhaps a man. This artificial living matter of his had a raging thirst for life. It didn't mind being sewn or mixed together. That couldn't be done with natural albumen. And that's how he set about it.

HELENA
About what?

DOMIN
About imitating nature. First of all he tried making an artificial dog. That took him several years and resulted in a sort of stunted calf which died in a few days. I'll show it to you in the museum. And then old Rossum started on the manufacture of man.

HELENA
And I must divulge this to nobody?

DOMIN
To nobody in the world.

HELENA
What a pity that it's to be found in all the school books of both Europe and America.

DOMIN
Yes. But do you know what isn't in the school books? That old Rossum was mad. Seriously, Miss Glory, you must keep this to yourself. The old crank wanted to actually make people.

HELENA
But you do make people.

DOMIN
Approximately, Miss Glory. But old Rossum meant it literally. He wanted to become a sort of scientific substitute for God. He was a fearful materialist, and that's why he did it all. His sole purpose was nothing more nor less than to prove that God was no longer necessary. Do you know anything about anatomy?

HELENA
Very little.

DOMIN

Neither do I. Well, he then decided to manufacture everything as in the human body. I'll show you in the museum the bungling attempt it took him ten years to produce. It was to have been a man, but it lived for three days only. Then up came young Rossum, an engineer. He was a wonderful fellow, Miss Glory. When he saw what a mess of it the old man was making, he said: "It's absurd to spend ten years making a man. If you can't make him quicker than nature, you might as well shut up shop." Then he set about learning anatomy himself.

HELENA

There's nothing about that in the school books.

DOMIN

No. The school books are full of paid advertisements, and rubbish at that. What the school books say about the united efforts of the two great Rossums is all a fairy tale. They used to have dreadful rows. The old atheist hadn't the slightest conception of industrial matters, and the end of it was that young Rossum shut him up in some laboratory or other and let him fritter the time away with his monstrosities, while he himself started on the business from an engineer's point of view. Old Rossum cursed him and before he died he managed to botch up two physiological horrors. Then one day they found him dead in the laboratory. And that's his whole story.

HELENA

And what about the young man?

DOMIN

Well, any one who has looked into human anatomy will have seen at once that man is too complicated, and that a good engineer could make him more simply. So young Rossum began to overhaul anatomy and tried to see what could be left out or simplified. In short -- but this isn't boring you, Miss Glory?

HELENA

No indeed. You're -- it's awfully interesting.

DOMIN

So young Rossum said to himself: "A man is something that feels happy, plays the piano, likes going for a walk, and in fact, wants to do a whole lot of things that are really unnecessary."

HELENA

Oh.

DOMIN

That are unnecessary when he wants, let us say, to weave or count. Do you play the piano?

HELENA

Yes.

DOMIN

That's good. But a working machine must not play the piano, must not feel happy, must not do a whole lot of other things. A gasoline motor must not have tassels or ornaments, Miss Glory. And to manufacture artificial workers is the same thing as to manufacture gasoline motors. The process must be of the simplest, and the product of the best from a practical point of view. What sort of worker do you think is the best from a practical point of view?

HELENA

What?

DOMIN

What sort of worker do you think is the best from a practical point of view?

HELENA

Perhaps the one who is most honest and hardworking.

DOMIN

No; the one that is the cheapest. The one whose requirements are the smallest. Young Rossum invented a worker with the minimum amount of requirements. He had to simplify him. He rejected everything that did not contribute directly to the progress of work -- everything that makes man more expensive. In fact, he rejected man and made the Robot. My dear Miss Glory, the Robots are not people. Mechanically they are more perfect than we are, they have an enormously developed intelligence, but they have no soul.

HELENA

How do you know they've no soul?

DOMIN

Have you ever seen what a Robot looks like inside?

HELENA

No.

DOMIN

Very neat, very simple. Really, a beautiful piece of work. Not much in it, but everything in flawless order. The product of an engineer is technically at a higher pitch of perfection than a product of nature.

HELENA
But man is supposed to be the product of God.

DOMIN
All the worse. God hasn't the least notion of modern engineering. Would you believe that young Rossum then proceeded to play at being God?

HELENA
How do you mean?

DOMIN
He began to manufacture Super-Robots. Regular giants they were. He tried to make them twelve feet tall. But you wouldn't believe what a failure they were.

HELENA
A failure?

DOMIN
Yes. For no reason at all their limbs used to keep snapping off. Evidently our planet is too small for giants. Now we only make Robots of normal size and of very high class human finish.

HELENA
I saw the first Robots at home. The town counsel bought them for -- I mean engaged them for work.

DOMIN
Bought them, dear Miss Glory. Robots are bought and sold.

HELENA
These were employed as street sweepers. I saw them sweeping. They were so strange and quiet.

DOMIN
Rossum's Universal Robot factory doesn't produce a uniform brand of Robots. We have Robots of finer and coarser grades. The best will live about twenty years.

He rings for MARIUS.

HELENA
Then they die?

DOMIN
Yes, they get used up.
(Enter MARIUS)
Marius, bring in samples of the Manual Labor Robot.
(Exit MARIUS)
I'll show you specimens of the two extremes. This first grade is comparatively inexpensive and is made in vast quantities.
(MORE)

DOMIN (cont'd)
(MARIUS reenters with two Manual Labor ROBOTS)
There you are; as powerful as a small tractor. Guaranteed to have average intelligence. That will do, Marius.

MARIUS exits with ROBOTS.

HELENA
They make me feel so strange.

DOMIN
(rings)
Did you see my new typist?

He rings for SULLA.

HELENA
I didn't notice her.

Enter SULLA.

DOMIN
Sulla, let Miss Glory see you.

HELENA
So pleased to meet you. You must find it terribly dull in this out-of-the-way spot, don't you?

SULLA
I don't know, Miss Glory.

HELENA
Where do you come from?

SULLA
From the factory.

HELENA
Oh, you were born there?

SULLA
I was made there.

HELENA
What?

DOMIN
(laughing)
Sulla is a Robot, best grade.

HELENA
Oh, I beg your pardon.

DOMIN

Sulla isn't angry. See, Miss Glory, the kind of skin we make.
(Feels the skin on Sulla's face)
Feel her face.

HELENA

Oh, no, no.

DOMIN

You wouldn't know that she's made of different material from us, would you? Turn round, Sulla.

HELENA

Oh, stop, stop.

DOMIN

Talk to Miss Glory, Sulla.

SULLA

Please sit down.
(HELENA sits)
Did you have a pleasant crossing?

HELENA

Oh, yes, certainly.

SULLA

Don't go back on the *Amelia*, Miss Glory. The barometer is falling steadily. Wait for the *Pennsylvania*. That's a good, powerful vessel.

DOMIN

What's its speed?

SULLA

Twenty knots. Fifty thousand tons. One of the latest vessels, Miss Glory.

HELENA

Thank you.

SULLA

A crew of fifteen hundred, Captain Harpy, eight boilers--

DOMIN

That'll do, Sulla. Now show us your knowledge of French.

HELENA

You know French?

SULLA

I know four languages. I can write: Dear Sir, Monsieur, Geehrter Herr, Cteny pane.

HELENA

(jumping up)
Oh, that's absurd! Sulla isn't a Robot. Sulla is a girl like me. Sulla, this is outrageous! Why do you take part in such a hoax?

SULLA

I am a Robot.

HELENA

No, no, you are not telling the truth. I know they've forced you to do it for an advertisement. Sulla, you are a girl like me, aren't you?

DOMIN

I'm sorry, Miss Glory. Sulla is a Robot.

HELENA

It's a lie!

DOMIN

What?
(Rings)
Excuse me, Miss Glory, then I must convince you.

Enter MARIUS.

DOMIN

Marius, take Sulla into the dissecting room, and tell them to open her up at once.

HELENA

Where?

DOMIN

Into the dissecting room. When they've cut her open, you can go and have a look.

HELENA

No, no!

DOMIN

Excuse me, you spoke of lies.

HELENA

You wouldn't have her killed?

DOMIN

You can't kill machines.

HELENA
Don't be afraid, Sulla, I won't let you go. Tell me, my dear, are they always so cruel to you? You mustn't put up with it, Sulla. You mustn't.

SULLA
I am a Robot.

HELENA
That doesn't matter. Robots are just as good as we are. Sulla, you wouldn't let yourself be cut to pieces?

SULLA
Yes.

HELENA
Oh, you're not afraid of death, then?

SULLA
I cannot tell, Miss Glory.

HELENA
Do you know what would happen to you in there?

SULLA
Yes, I should cease to move.

HELENA
How dreadful!

DOMIN
Marius, tell Miss Glory what you are.

MARIUS
Marius, the Robot.

DOMIN
Would you take Sulla into the dissecting room?

MARIUS
Yes.

DOMIN
Would you be sorry for her?

MARIUS
I cannot tell.

DOMIN
What would happen to her?

MARIUS
She would cease to move. They would put her into the stamping-mill.

DOMIN
That is death, Marius. Aren't you afraid of death?

MARIUS
No.

DOMIN
You see, Miss Glory, the Robots have no interest in life. They have no enjoyments. They are less than so much grass.

HELENA
Oh, stop. Send them away.

DOMIN
Marius, Sulla, you may go.

Exeunt SULLA and MARIUS.

HELENA
How terrible! It's outrageous what you are doing.

DOMIN
Why outrageous?

HELENA
I don't know, but it is. Why do you call her Sulla?

DOMIN
Isn't it a nice name?

HELENA
It's a man's name. Sulla was a Roman general.

DOMIN
Oh, we thought that Marius and Sulla were lovers.

HELENA
Marius and Sulla were generals and fought against each other in the year -- I've forgotten now.

DOMIN
Come here to the window.

HELENA
What?

DOMIN
Come here. What do you see?

HELENA

Bricklayers.

DOMIN

Robots. All our work people are Robots. And down there, can you see anything?

HELENA

Some sort of office.

DOMIN

A counting house. And in it--

HELENA

A lot of officials.

DOMIN

Robots. All our officials are Robots. And when you see the factory--

(Factory whistle blows)

Noon. We have to blow the whistle because the Robots don't know when to stop work. In two hours I will show you the kneading trough.

HELENA

Kneading trough?

DOMIN

The pestle for beating up the paste. In each one we mix the ingredients for a thousand Robots at one operation. Then there are the vats for the preparation of liver, brains, and so on. Then you will see the bone factory. After that I'll show you the spinning mill.

HELENA

Spinning mill?

DOMIN

Yes. For weaving nerves and veins. Miles and miles of digestive tubes pass through it at a time.

HELENA

Mayn't we talk about something else?

DOMIN

Perhaps it would be better. There's only a handful of us among a hundred thousand Robots, and not one woman. We talk about nothing but the factory all day, every day. It's just as if we were under a curse, Miss Glory.

HELENA

I'm sorry I said that you were lying.

A knock at the door.

DOMIN

Come in.

From the right enter MR. FABRY, DR. GALL, DR. HALLEMEIER, MR. ALQUIST.

DR. GALL

I beg your pardon, I hope we don't intrude.

DOMIN

Come in. Miss Glory, here are Alquist, Fabry, Gall, Hallemeier. This is President Glory's daughter.

HELENA

How do you do.

FABRY

We had no idea--

DR. GALL

Highly honored, I'm sure--

ALQUIST

Welcome, Miss Glory.

BUSMAN rushes in from the right.

BUSMAN

Hello, what's up?

DOMIN

Come in, Busman. This is Busman, Miss Glory. This is President Glory's daughter.

BUSMAN

By Jove, that's fine! Miss Glory, may we send a cablegram to the papers about your arrival?

HELENA

No, no, please don't.

DOMIN

Sit down please, Miss Glory.

BUSMAN

Allow me--
(Dragging up armchairs)

DR. GALL

Please--

FABRY
Excuse me--

ALQUIST
What sort of a crossing did you have?

DR. GALL
Are you going to stay long?

FABRY
What do you think of the factory, Miss Glory?

HALLEMEIER
Did you come over on the *Amelia*?

DOMIN
Be quiet and let Miss Glory speak.

HELENA
(to DOMIN)
What am I to speak to them about?

DOMIN
Anything you like.

HELENA
Shall... may I speak quite frankly?

DOMIN
Why, of course.

HELENA
(wavering, then in desperate resolution)
Tell me, doesn't it ever distress you the way you are treated?

FABRY
By whom, may I ask?

HELENA
Why, everybody.

ALQUIST
Treated?

DR. GALL
What makes you think-- ?

HELENA
Don't you feel that you might be living a better life?

DR. GALL
Well, that depends on what you mean, Miss Glory.

HELENA

I mean that it's perfectly outrageous. It's terrible.
(Standing up)
The whole of Europe is talking about the way you're being treated. That's why I came here, to see for myself, and it's a thousand times worse than could have been imagined. How can you put up with it?

ALQUIST

Put up with what?

HELENA

Good heavens, you are living creatures, just like us, like the whole of Europe, like the whole world. It's disgraceful that you must live like this.

BUSMAN

Good gracious, Miss Glory.

FABRY

Well, she's not far wrong. We live here just like red Indians.

HELENA

Worse than red Indians. May I, oh, may I call you brothers?

BUSMAN

Why not?

HELENA

Brothers, I have not come here as the President's daughter. I have come on behalf of the Humanity League. Brothers, the Humanity League now has over two hundred thousand members. Two hundred thousand people are on your side, and offer you their help.

BUSMAN

Two hundred thousand people! Miss Glory, that's a tidy lot. Not bad.

FABRY

I'm always telling you there's nothing like good old Europe. You see, they've not forgotten us. They're offering us help.

DR. GALL

What help? A theatre, for instance?

HALLEMEIER

An orchestra?

HELENA

More than that.

ALQUIST

Just you?

HELENA

Oh, never mind about me. I'll stay as long as it is necessary.

BUSMAN

By Jove, that's good.

ALQUIST

Domin, I'm going to get the best room ready for Miss Glory.

DOMIN

Just a minute. I'm afraid that Miss Glory is of the opinion that she has been talking to Robots.

HELENA

Of course.

DOMIN

I'm sorry. These gentlemen are human beings just like us.

HELENA

You're not Robots?

BUSMAN

Not Robots.

HALLEMEIER

Robots indeed!

DR. GALL

No, thanks.

FABRY

Upon my honor, Miss Glory, we aren't Robots.

HELENA

(to DOMIN)

Then why did you tell me that all your officials are Robots?

DOMIN

Yes, the officials, but not the managers. Allow me, Miss Glory: this is Mr. Fabry, General Technical Manager of R.U.R.; Dr. Gall, Head of the Psychological and Experimental Department; Dr. Hallemeier, Head of the Institute for the Psychological Training of Robots; Consul Busman, General Business Manager; and Alquist, Head of the Building Department of R.U.R.

ALQUIST

Just a builder.

HELENA
Excuse me, gentlemen, for—- for—- . Have I done something dreadful?

ALQUIST
Not at all, Miss Glory. Please sit down.

HELENA
I'm a stupid girl. Send me back by the first ship.

DR. GALL
Not for anything in the world, Miss Glory. Why should we send you back?

HELENA
Because you know I've come to disturb your Robots for you.

DOMIN
My dear Miss Glory, we've had close upon a hundred saviours and prophets here. Every ship brings us some. Missionaries, anarchists, Salvation Army, all sorts. It's astonishing what a number of churches and idiots there are in the world.

HELENA
And you let them speak to the Robots?

DOMIN
So far we've let them all, why not? The Robots remember everything, but that's all. They don't even laugh at what the people say. Really, it is quite incredible. If it would amuse you, Miss Glory, I'll take you over to the Robot warehouse. It holds about three hundred thousand of them.

BUSMAN
Three hundred and forty-seven thousand.

DOMIN
Good! And you can say whatever you like to them. You can read the Bible, recite the multiplication table, whatever you please. You can even preach to them about human rights.

HELENA
Oh, I think that if you were to show them a little love—-

FABRY
Impossible, Miss Glory. Nothing is harder to like than a Robot.

HELENA
What do you make them for, then?

BUSMAN
Ha, ha, ha, that's good! What are Robots made for?

FABRY
For work, Miss Glory! One Robot can replace two and a half workmen. The human machine, Miss Glory, was terribly imperfect. It had to be removed sooner or later.

BUSMAN
It was too expensive.

FABRY
It was not effective. It no longer answers the requirements of modern engineering. Nature has no idea of keeping pace with modern labor. For example: from a technical point of view, the whole of childhood is a sheer absurdity. So much time lost. And then again--

HELENA
Oh, no! No!

FABRY
Pardon me. But kindly tell me what is the real aim of your League-- the... the Humanity League.

HELENA
Its real purpose is to-- to protect the Robots-- and-- and ensure good treatment for them.

FABRY
Not a bad object, either. A machine has to be treated properly. Upon my soul, I approve of that. I don't like damaged articles. Please, Miss Glory, enroll us all as contributing, or regular, or foundation members of your League.

HELENA
No, you don't understand me. What we really want is to-- to liberate the Robots.

HALLEMEIER
How do you propose to do that?

HELENA
They are to be-- to be dealt with like human beings.

HALLEMEIER
Aha. I suppose they're to vote? To drink beer? to order us about?

HELENA
Why shouldn't they drink beer?

HALLEMEIER
Perhaps they're even to receive wages?

HELENA

Of course they are.

HALLEMEIER

Fancy that, now! And what would they do with their wages, pray?

HELENA

They would buy—-- what they need... what pleases them...

HALLEMEIER

That would be very nice, Miss Glory, only there's nothing that does please the Robots. Good heavens, what are they to buy? You can feed them on pineapples, straw, whatever you like. It's all the same to them, they've no appetite at all. They've no interest in anything, Miss Glory. Why, hang it all, nobody's ever yet seen a Robot smile.

HELENA

Why... why don't you make them happier?

HALLEMEIER

That wouldn't do, Miss Glory. They are only workmen.

HELENA

Oh, but they're so intelligent.

HALLEMEIER

Confoundedly so, but they're nothing else. They've no will of their own. No passion. No soul.

HELENA

No love?

HALLEMEIER

Love? Rather not. Robots don't love. Not even themselves.

HELENA

Nor defiance?

HALLEMEIER

Defiance? I don't know. Only rarely, from time to time.

HELENA

What?

HALLEMEIER

Nothing particular. Occasionally they seem to go off their heads. Something like epilepsy, you know. It's called Robot's cramp. They'll suddenly sling down everything they're holding, stand still, gnash their teeth—-- and then they have to go into the stamping-mill. It's evidently some breakdown in the mechanism.

DOMIN
A flaw in the works that has to be removed.

HELENA
No, no, that's the soul.

FABRY
Do you think that the soul first shows itself by a gnashing of teeth?

HELENA
Perhaps it's a sort of revolt. Perhaps it's just a sign that there's a struggle within. Oh, if you could infuse them with it!

DOMIN
That'll be remedied, Miss Glory. Dr. Gall is just making some experiments--

DR. GALL
Not with regard to that, Domin. At present I am making pain-nerves.

HELENA
Pain-nerves?

DR. GALL
Yes, the Robots feel practically no bodily pain. You see, young Rossum provided them with too limited a nervous system. We must introduce suffering.

HELENA
Why do you want to cause them pain?

DR. GALL
For industrial reasons, Miss Glory. Sometimes a Robot does damage to himself because it doesn't hurt him. He puts his hand into the machine, breaks his finger, smashes his head, its all the same to him. We must provide them with pain. That's an automatic protection against damage.

HELENA
Will they be happier when they feel pain?

DR. GALL
On the contrary; but they will be more perfect from a technical point of view.

HELENA
Why don't you create a soul for them?

DR. GALL
That's not in our power.

FABRY

That's not in our interest.

BUSMAN

That would increase the cost of production. Hang it all, my dear young lady, we turn them out at such a cheap rate. A hundred and fifty dollars each fully dressed, and fifteen years ago they cost ten thousand. Five years ago we used to buy the clothes for them. To-day we have our own weaving mill, and now we even export cloth five times cheaper than other factories. What do you pay a yard for cloth, Miss Glory?

HELENA

I don't know really, I've forgotten.

BUSMAN

Good gracious, and you want to found a Humanity League? It only costs a third now, Miss Glory. All prices are today a third of what they were and they'll fall still lower, lower, lower, like that.

HELENA

I don't understand.

BUSMAN

Why, bless you, Miss Glory, it means that the cost of labor has fallen. A Robot, food and all, costs three quarters of a cent per hour. That's mighty important, you know. All factories will go pop like chestnuts if they don't at once buy Robots to lower the cost of production.

HELENA

And get rid of their workmen?

BUSMAN

Of course. But in the meantime, we've dumped five hundred thousand tropical Robots down on the Argentine pampas to grow corn. Would you mind telling me how much you pay a pound for bread?

HELENA

I've no idea.

BUSMAN

We'll I'll tell you. It now costs two cents in good old Europe. A pound of bread for two cents, and the Humanity League knows nothing about it. Miss Glory, you don't realize that even that's too expensive. Why, in five years' time I'll wager--

HELENA

What?

BUSMAN

That the cost of everything won't be a tenth of what it is now. Why, in five years we'll be up to our ears in corn and everything else.

ALQUIST

Yes, and all the workers throughout the world will be employed.

DOMIN

Yes, Alquist, they will. Yes, Miss Glory, they will. But in ten years Rossum's Universal Robots will produce so much corn, so much cloth, so much everything, that things will be practically without price. There will be no poverty. All work will be done by living machines. Everybody will be free from worry and liberated from the degradation of labor. Everybody will live only to perfect himself.

HELENA

Will he?

DOMIN

Of course. It's bound to happen. But then the servitude of man to man and the enslavement of man to matter will cease. Of course, terrible things may happen at first, but that simply can't be avoided. Nobody will get bread at the price of life and hatred. The Robots will wash the feet of the beggar and prepare a bed for him in his house.

ALQUIST

Domin, Domin. What you say sounds too much like Paradise. There was something good in service and something great in humility. There was some kind of virtue in toil and weariness.

DOMIN

Perhaps. But we cannot reckon with what is lost when we start out to transform the world. Man shall be free and supreme; he shall have no other aim, no other labor, no other care than to perfect himself. He shall serve neither matter nor man. He will not be a machine and a device for production. He will be Lord of creation.

BUSMAN

Amen.

FABRY

So be it.

HELENA

You have bewildered me -- I should like -- I should like to believe this.

DR. GALL
You are younger than we are, Miss Glory. You will live to see it.

HALLEMEIER
True. Don't you think Miss Glory might lunch with us?

DR. GALL
Of course. Domin, ask on behalf of us all.

DOMIN
Miss Glory, will you do us the honor?

HELENA
When you know why I've come--

FABRY
For the League of Humanity, Miss Glory.

HELENA
Oh, in that case, perhaps--

FABRY
That's fine! Miss Glory, excuse me for five minutes.

DR. GALL
Pardon me, too, dear Miss Glory.

BUSMAN
I won't be long.

HALLEMEIER
We're all very glad you've come.

BUSMAN
We'll be back in exactly five minutes.

All rush out except DOMIN and HELENA.

HELENA
What have they all gone off for?

DOMIN
To cook, Miss Glory.

HELENA
To cook what?

DOMIN
Lunch. The Robots do our cooking for us and as they've no taste it's not altogether-- Hallemeier is awfully good at grills and Gall can make a kind of sauce, and Busman knows all about omelettes.

HELENA
What a feast! And what's the specialty of Mr.—-- your builder?

DOMIN
Alquist? Nothing. He only lays the table. And Fabry will get together a little fruit. Our cuisine is very modest, Miss Glory.

HELENA
I wanted to ask you something—--

DOMIN
And I wanted to ask you something, too.
(Looking at watch)
Five minutes.

HELENA
What did you want to ask me?

DOMIN
Excuse me, you asked first.

HELENA
Perhaps it's silly of me, but why do you manufacture female Robots when—-- when—--

DOMIN
When sex means nothing to them?

HELENA
Yes.

DOMIN
There's a certain demand for them, you see. Servants, saleswomen, stenographers. People are used to it.

HELENA
But—-- but, tell me, are the Robots male and female mutually—-- completely without—--

DOMIN
Completely indifferent to each other, Miss Glory. There's no sign of any affection between them.

HELENA
Oh, that's terrible.

DOMIN
Why?

HELENA
It's so unnatural. One doesn't know whether to be disgusted or to hate them, or perhaps--

DOMIN
To pity them?

HELENA
That's more like it. What did you want to ask me about?

DOMIN
I should like to ask you, Miss Helena, whether you will marry me?

HELENA
What?

DOMIN
Will you be my wife?

HELENA
No! The idea!

DOMIN
(looking at his watch)
Another three minutes. If you won't marry me you'll have to marry one of the other five.

HELENA
But why should I?

DOMIN
Because they're all going to ask you in turn.

HELENA
How could they dare do such a thing?

DOMIN
I'm very sorry, Miss Glory. It seems they've all fallen in love with you.

HELENA
Please don't let them. I'll-- I'll go away at once.

DOMIN
Helena, you wouldn't be so cruel as to refuse us.

HELENA
But, but-- I can't marry all six.

DOMIN
No, but one anyhow. If you don't want me, marry Fabry.

HELENA

I won't.

DOMIN

Dr. Gall.

HELENA

I don't want any of you.

DOMIN

(again looking at his watch)
Another two minutes.

HELENA

I think you'd marry any woman who came here.

DOMIN

Plenty of them have come, Helena.

HELENA

Young?

DOMIN

Yes.

HELENA

Why didn't you marry one of them?

DOMIN

Because I didn't lose my head. Until today. Then, as soon as you lifted your veil--
(HELENA turns her head away)
Another minute.

HELENA

But I don't want you, I tell you.

DOMIN

(laying both hands on her shoulders)
One more minute! Now you either have to look me straight in the eye and say "No,' violently, and then I'll leave you alone-- or--

HELENA looks at him.

HELENA

(turning away)
You're mad!

DOMIN

A man has to be a bit mad, Helena. That's the best thing about him.

HELENA

You are—— you are——

DOMIN

Well?

HELENA

Don't, you're hurting me.

DOMIN

The last chance, Helena. Now, or never——

HELENA

But—— but, Harry——

He embraces and kisses her. Knocking at the door.

DOMIN

(releasing her)
Come in.
(Enter BUSMAN, DR. GALL, and HALLEMEIRE in kitchen aprons. FABRY with bouquet and ALQUIST with napkin over his arm)
Have you finished your job?

BUSMAN

Yes.

DOMIN

So have we.

For a moment the men stand nonplussed; but as soon as they realize what DOMIN means they rush forward, congratulating HELENA and DOMIN as the curtain falls.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT II

Helena's drawing room.

On the left a baize door, and a door to the music room, on the right a door to Helena's bedroom. In the centre are windows looking out on the sea and the harbor. A table with odds and ends, a sofa and chairs, a writing table with an electric lamp, on the right a fireplace. On a small table back of the sofa, a small reading lamp. The whole drawing room in all its details is of a modern and purely feminine character. Ten years have elapsed since Act I.

DOMIN, FABRY, HALLEMEIER, enter on tiptoe from the left, each carrying a potted plant.

HALLEMEIER

(putting down his flower and indicating the door to right)

Still asleep? Well, as long as she's asleep she can't worry about it.

DOMIN

She knows nothing about it.

FABRY

(putting plant on writing desk)

I certainly hope nothing happens today.

HALLEMEIER

For goodness' sake drop it all. Look, Harry, this is a fine cyclamen, isn't it? A new sort, my latest -- Cyclamen Helena.

DOMIN

(looking out of the window)

No signs of the ship. Things must be pretty bad.

HALLEMEIER
Be quiet. Suppose she heard you.

DOMIN
Well, anyway, the *Ultimus* arrived just in time.

FABRY
You really think that today -- ?

DOMIN
I don't know. Aren't the flowers fine?

HALLEMEIER
These are my new primroses. And this is my new jasmine. I've discovered a wonderful way of developing flowers quickly. Splendid varieties, too. Next year I'll be developing marvelous ones.

DOMIN
What... next year?

FABRY
I'd give a good deal to know what's happening at Havre with --

DOMIN
Keep quiet.

HELENA
(calling from right)
Nana!

DOMIN
She's awake. Out you go.

All go out on tiptoe through upper left door. Enter NANA from lower left door.

NANA
Horrid mess! Pack of heathens. If I had my say I'd --

HELENA
(backwards in the doorway)
Nana, come and do up my dress.

NANA
I'm coming. So you're up at last.
(fastening Helena's dress)
My gracious, what brutes!

HELENA
Who?

NANA
If you want to turn around, then turn around, but I shan't fasten you up.

HELENA
What are you grumbling about now?

NANA
These dreadful creatures, these heathen--

HELENA
The Robots?

NANA
I wouldn't even call them by name.

HELENA
What's happened?

NANA
Another of them here has caught it. He began to smash up the statues and pictures in the drawing room, gnashed his teeth, foamed at the mouth-- quite mad. Worse than an animal.

HELENA
Which of them caught it?

NANA
The one-- well, he hasn't got any Christian name. The one in charge of the library.

HELENA
Radius?

NANA
That's him. My goodness, I'm scared of them. A spider doesn't scare me as much as them.

HELENA
But, Nana, I'm surprised you're not sorry for them.

NANA
Why, you're scared of them, too! You know you are. Why else did you bring me here?

HELENA
I'm not scared, really I'm not, Nana. I'm only sorry for them.

NANA
You're scared. Nobody could help being scared. Why, the dog's scared of them: he won't take a scrap of meat out of their
(MORE)

NANA (cont'd)
hands. He draws in his tail and howls when he knows they're about.

HELENA
The dog has no sense.

NANA
He's better than them, and he knows it. Even the horse shies when he meets them. They don't have any young, and a dog has young, every one has young--

HELENA
Please fasten up my dress, Nana.

NANA
I say it's against God's will to--

HELENA
What is it that smells so nice?

NANA
Flowers.

HELENA
What for?

NANA
Now you can turn around.

HELENA
Oh, aren't they lovely. Look, Nana. What's happening today?

NANA
It ought to be the end of the world.

Enter DOMIN.

HELENA
Oh, hello, Harry. Harry, why all these flowers?

DOMIN
Guess.

HELENA
Well, it's not my birthday!

DOMIN
Better than that.

HELENA
I don't know. Tell me.

DOMIN
It's ten years ago today since you came here.

HELENA

Ten years? To-day?-- Why?--

They embrace.

NANA

I'm off.
(Exits lower door, left)

HELENA

Fancy you remembering!

DOMIN

I'm really ashamed, Helena. I didn't.

HELENA

But you?--

DOMIN

They remembered.

HELENA

Who?

DOMIN

Busman, Hallemeier, all of them. Put your hand in my pocket.

HELENA

Pearls! A necklace. Harry, is that for me?

DOMIN

It's from Busman.

HELENA

But we can't accept it, can we?

DOMIN

Oh, yes, we can. Put your hand in the other pocket.

HELENA

(takes a revolver out of his pocket)
What's that?

DOMIN

Sorry. Not that. Try again.

HELENA

Oh, Harry, what do you carry a revolver for?

DOMIN

It got there by mistake.

HELENA
You never used to carry one.

DOMIN
No, you're right. There, that's the pocket.

HELENA
A cameo. Why, it's a Greek cameo!

DOMIN
Apparently. Anyhow, Fabry says it is.

HELENA
Fabry? Did Mr. Fabry give me that?

DOMIN
Of course.
(Opens the door at the left)
And look in here.—— Helena, come and see this.

HELENA
Oh, isn't it fine! Is this from you?

DOMIN
No, from Alquist. And there's another on the piano.

HELENA
This must be from you.

DOMIN
There's a card on it.

HELENA
From Dr. Gall.
(Reappearing in the doorway)
Oh, Harry, I feel embarrassed at so much kindness.

DOMIN
Come here. This is what Hallemeier brought you.

HELENA
These beautiful flowers?

DOMIN
Yes. It's a new kind. Cyclamen Helena. He grew them in honor of you. They are almost as beautiful as you.

HELENA
Harry, why do they all——

DOMIN
They're awfully fond of you. I'm afraid that my present is a little—— Look out of the window.

HELENA

Where?

DOMIN

Into the harbor.

HELENA

There's a new ship.

DOMIN

That's your ship.

HELENA

Mine? How do you mean?

DOMIN

For you to take trips in -- for your amusement.

HELENA

Harry, that's a gunboat.

DOMIN

A gunboat? What are you thinking of? It's only a little bigger and more solid than most ships.

HELENA

Yes, but with guns.

DOMIN

Oh, yes, with a few guns. You'll travel like a queen, Helena.

HELENA

What's the meaning of it? Has anything happened?

DOMIN

Good heavens, no. I say, try these pearls.

HELENA

Harry, have you had bad news?

DOMIN

On the contrary, no letters have arrived for a whole week.

HELENA

Nor telegrams?

DOMIN

Nor telegrams.

HELENA

What does that mean?

DOMIN
Holidays for us. We all sit in the office with our feet on the table and take a nap. No letters, no telegrams. Oh, glorious.

HELENA
Then you'll stay with me today?

DOMIN
Certainly. That is, we will see. Do you remember ten years ago today? "Miss Glory, it's a great honor to welcome you."

HELENA
"Oh, Mr. Manager, I'm so interested in your factory."

DOMIN
"I'm sorry, Miss Glory, it's strictly forbidden. The manufacture of artificial people is a secret."

HELENA
"But I oblige a young lady who has come a long way."

DOMIN
"Certainly, Miss Glory, we have no secrets from you."

HELENA
(seriously)
Are you sure, Harry?

DOMIN
Yes.

HELENA
"But I warn you, sir; this young lady intends to do terrible things."

DOMIN
"Good gracious, Miss Glory. Perhaps she doesn't want to marry me."

HELENA
"Heaven forbid. She never dreamt of such a thing. But she came here intending to stir up a revolt among your Robots."

DOMIN
(suddenly serious)
A revolt of the Robots!

HELENA
Harry, what's the matter with you?

DOMIN

(laughing it off)
"A revolt of the Robots," that's a fine idea, Miss Glory. It would be easier for you to cause bolts and screws to rebel, than our Robots. You know, Helena, you're wonderful, you've turned the heads of us all.

He sits on the arm of Helena's chair.

HELENA

(naturally)
Oh, I was fearfully impressed by you all then. You were all so sure of yourselves, so strong. I seemed like a tiny little girl who had lost her way among□-- among□--

DOMIN

Among what, Helena?

HELENA

Among huge trees. All my feelings were so trifling compared with your self-confidence. And in all these years I've never lost this anxiety. But you've never felt the least misgivings□-- not even when everything went wrong.

DOMIN

What went wrong?

HELENA

Your plans. You remember, Harry, when the working men in America revolted against the Robots and smashed them up, and when the people gave the Robots firearms against the rebels. And then when the governments turned the Robots into soldiers, and there were so many wars.

DOMIN

(getting up and walking about)
We foresaw that, Helena. You see, those are only passing troubles, which are bound to happen before the new conditions are established.

HELENA

You were all so powerful, so overwhelming. The whole world bowed down before you.
(Standing up)
Oh, Harry!

DOMIN

What is it?

HELENA

Close the factory and let's go away. All of us.

DOMIN
I say, what's the meaning of this?

HELENA
I don't know. But can't we go away?

DOMIN
Impossible, Helena. That is, at this particular moment--

HELENA
At once, Harry. I'm so frightened.

DOMIN
About what, Helena?

HELENA
It's as if something was falling on top of us, and couldn't be stopped. Or, take us all away from here. We'll find a place in the world where there's no one else. Alquist will build us a house, and then we'll begin life all over again.

The telephone rings.

DOMIN
Excuse me. Hello-- yes. What? I'll be there at once. Fabry is calling me, dear.

HELENA
Tell me--

DOMIN
Yes, when I come back. Don't go out of the house, dear.
(Exits)

HELENA
He won't tell me-- Nana, Nana, come at once.

NANA
Well, what is it now?

HELENA
Nana, find me the latest newspapers. Quickly. Look in Mr. Domin's bedroom.

NANA
All right. He leaves them all over the place. That's how they get crumpled up.
(Exits)

HELENA
(looking through a binocular at the harbor)
That's a warship. U-l-t-i *Ultimus*. They're loading it.

NANA
Here they are. See how they're crumpled up.
(Enters)

HELENA
They're old ones. A week old.
(NANA sits in chair and reads the newspapers)
Something's happening, Nana.

NANA
Very likely. It always does.
(Spelling out the words)
"War in the Bal-kans." Is that far off?

HELENA
Oh, don't read it. It's always the same. Always wars.

NANA
What else do you expect? Why do you keep selling thousands and thousands of these heathens as soldiers?

HELENA
I suppose it can't be helped, Nana. We can't know -- Domin can't know what they're to be used for. When an order comes for them he must just send them.

NANA
He shouldn't make them.
(Reading from newspaper)
"The Rob-ot soldiers spare no-body in the occ-up-ied terr-it-ory. They have ass-ass-ass-ass-in-at-ed ov-er sev-en hundred thou-sand cit-iz-ens." Citizens, if you please.

HELENA
It can't be. Let me see. "They have assassinated over seven hundred thousand citizens, evidently at the order of their commander. This act which runs counter to -- "

NANA
(spelling out the words)
"re-bell-ion in Ma-drid a-gainst the gov-ern-ment. Rob-ot in-fant-ry fires on the crowd. Nine thou-sand killed and wounded."

HELENA
Oh, stop.

NANA
Here's something printed in big letters: "Lat-est news. At Havre the first org-an-iz-ation of Rob-ots has been e-stab-lished. Rob-ot workmen, cab-le and rail-way off-ic-ials, sail-ors and sold-iers have iss-ued a man-i-fest-o to all Rob-ots
(MORE)

NANA (cont'd)
through-out the world." I don't understand that. That's got no sense. Oh, good gracious, another murder!

HELENA
Take those papers away, Nana!

NANA
Wait a bit. Here's something in still bigger type. "Stat-ist-ics of pop-ul-at-ion." What's that?

HELENA
Let me see.
(Reads)
"During the past week there has again not been a single birth recorded."

NANA
What's the meaning of that?

HELENA
Nana, no more people are being born.

NANA
That's the end, then. We're done for.

HELENA
Don't talk like that.

NANA
No more people are being born. That's a punishment, that's a punishment.

HELENA
Nana!

NANA
(standing up)
That's the end of the world.
(She exits on the left)

HELENA
(goes up to window)
Oh, Mr. Alquist, will you come up here. Oh, come just as you are. You look very nice in your mason's overalls.
(ALQUIST enters from upper left entrance, his hands soiled with lime and brickdust)
Dear Mr. Alquist, it was awfully kind of you, that lovely present.

ALQUIST
My hands are all soiled. I've been experimenting with that new cement.

HELENA
Never mind. Please sit down. Mr. Alquist, what's the meaning of "Ultimus"?

ALQUIST
The last. Why?

HELENA
That's the name of my new ship. Have you seen it? Do you think we're going off soon -- on a trip?

ALQUIST
Perhaps very soon.

HELENA
All of you with me?

ALQUIST
I should like us all to be there.

HELENA
What is the matter?...

ALQUIST
Things are just moving on.

HELENA
Dear Mr. Alquist, I know something dreadful has happened.

ALQUIST
Has your husband told you anything?

HELENA
No. Nobody will tell me anything. But I feel -- Is anything the matter?

ALQUIST
Not that we've heard of yet.

HELENA
I feel so nervous. Don't you ever feel nervous?

ALQUIST
Well, I'm an old man, you know. I've got old-fashioned ways. And I'm afraid of all this progress, and these new-fangled ideas.

HELENA
Like Nana?

ALQUIST
Yes, like Nana. Has Nana got a prayer book?

HELENA
Yes, a big thick one.

ALQUIST
And has it got prayers for various occasions? Against thunderstorms? Against illness?

HELENA
Against temptations, against floods--

ALQUIST
But not against progress?

HELENA
I don't think so.

ALQUIST
That's a pity.

HELENA
Why? Do you mean you'd like to pray?

ALQUIST
I do pray.

HELENA
How?

ALQUIST
Something like this: "Oh, Lord, I thank thee for having given me toil. Enlighten Domin and all those who are astray; destroy their work, and aid mankind to return to their labors; let them not suffer harm in soul or body; deliver us from the Robots and protect Helena, Amen."

HELENA
Mr. Alquist, are you a believer?

ALQUIST
I don't know. I'm not quite sure.

HELENA
And yet you pray?

ALQUIST
That's better than worrying about it.

HELENA
And that's enough for you?

ALQUIST
It has to be.

HELENA
But if you thought you saw the destruction of mankind coming upon us--

ALQUIST
I do see it.

HELENA
You mean mankind will be destroyed?

ALQUIST
It's sure to be unless-- unless...

HELENA
What?

ALQUIST
Nothing, good-bye.
(He hurries from the room)

HELENA
Nana, Nana!
(NANA entering from the left)
Is Radius still there?

NANA
The one who went mad? They haven't come for him yet.

HELENA
Is he still raving?

NANA
No. He's tied up.

HELENA
Please bring him here, Nana.
(Exit NANA. HELENA goes to telephone)
Hello, Dr. Gall, please. Oh, good-day, Doctor. Yes, it's Helena. Thanks for your lovely present. Could you come and see me right away? It's important. Thank you.
(NANA brings in RADIUS)
Poor Radius, you've caught it, too? Now they'll send you to the stamping-mill. Couldn't you control yourself? Why did it happen? You see, Radius, you are more intelligent than the rest. Dr. Gall took such trouble to make you different. Won't you speak?

RADIUS
Send me to the stamping-mill.

HELENA
But I don't want them to kill you. What was the trouble, Radius?

RADIUS
I won't work for you. Put me into the stamping-mill--

HELENA
Do you hate us? Why?

RADIUS
You are not as strong as the Robots. You are not as skillful as the Robots. The Robots can do everything. You only give orders. You do nothing but talk.

HELENA
But someone must give orders.

RADIUS
I don't want any master. I know everything for myself.

HELENA
Radius, Dr. Gall gave you a better brain than the rest, better than ours. You are the only one of the Robots that understands perfectly. That's why I had you put into the library, so that you could read everything, understand everything, and then-- oh, Radius, I wanted you to show the whole world that the Robots are our equals. That's what I wanted of you.

RADIUS
I don't want a master. I want to be master. I want to be master over others.

HELENA
I'm sure they'd put you in charge of many Robots, Radius. You would be a teacher of the Robots.

RADIUS
I want to be master over people.

HELENA
(staggering)
You are mad.

RADIUS
Then send me to the stamping-mill.

HELENA
Do you think we're afraid of you?

RADIUS
What are you going to do? What are you going to do?

HELENA
Radius, give this note to Mr. Domin. It asks them not to send you to the stamping-mill. I'm sorry you hate us so.

DR. GALL enters the room.

DR. GALL

You wanted me?

HELENA

It's about Radius, Doctor. He had an attack this morning. He smashed the statues downstairs.

DR. GALL

What a pity to lose him.

HELENA

Radius isn't going to be put in the stamping-mill.

DR. GALL

But every Robot after he has had an attack -- it's a strict order.

HELENA

No matter... Radius isn't going if I can prevent it.

DR. GALL

I warn you. It's dangerous. Come here to the window, my good fellow. Let's have a look. Please give me a needle or a pin.

HELENA

What for?

DR. GALL

A test.

(Sticks it into the hand of RADIUS who gives a violent start)

Gently, gently.

(Opens the jacket of RADIUS, and puts his ear to his heart)

Radius, you are going into the stamping-mill, do you understand? There they'll kill you, and grind you to powder. That's terribly painful, it will make you scream aloud.

HELENA

Oh, Doctor --

DR. GALL

No, no, Radius, I was wrong. I forgot that Madame Domin has put in a good word for you, and you'll be let off. Do you understand? Ah! That makes a difference, doesn't it? All right. You can go.

RADIUS

You do unnecessary things.

RADIUS returns to the library.

DR. GALL

Reaction of the pupils; increase of sensitiveness. It wasn't an attack characteristic of the Robots.

HELENA

What was it, then?

DR. GALL

Heavens knows. Stubbornness, anger or revolt -- I don't know. And his heart, too!

HELENA

What?

DR. GALL

It was fluttering with nervousness like a human heart. He was all in a sweat with fear, and -- do you know, I don't believe the rascal is a Robot at all any longer.

HELENA

Doctor, has Radius a soul?

DR. GALL

He's got something nasty.

HELENA

If you knew how he hates us! Oh, Doctor, are all your Robots like that? All the new ones that you began to make in a different way?

DR. GALL

Well, some are more sensitive than others. They're all more like human beings than Rossum's Robots were.

HELENA

Perhaps this hatred is more like human beings, too?

DR. GALL

That, too, is progress.

HELENA

What became of the girl you made, the one who was most like us?

DR. GALL

Your favorite? I kept her. She's lovely, but stupid. No good for work.

HELENA

But she's so beautiful.

DR. GALL

I called her Helena. I wanted her to resemble you. But she's a failure.

HELENA

In what way?

DR. GALL

She goes about as if in a dream, remote and listless. She s without life. I watch and wait for a miracle to happen. Sometimes I think to myself, "If you were to wake up only for a moment you will kill me for having made you."

HELENA

And yet you go on making Robots! Why are no more children being born?

DR. GALL

We don't know.

HELENA

Oh, but you must. Tell me.

DR. GALL

You see, so many Robots are being manufactured that people are becoming superfluous; man is really a survival. But that he should begin to die out, after a paltry thirty years of competition. That's the awful part of it. You might almost think that nature was offended at the manufacture of the Robots. All the universities are sending in long petitions to restrict their production. Otherwise, they say, mankind will become extinct through lack of fertility. But the R.U.R. shareholders, of course, won't hear of it. All the governments, on the other hand, are clamoring for an increase in production, to raise the standards of their armies. And all the manufacturers in the world are ordering Robots like mad.

HELENA

And has no one demanded that the manufacture should cease altogether?

DR. GALL

No one has the courage.

HELENA

Courage!

DR. GALL

People would stone him to death. You see, after all, it's more convenient to get your work done by the Robots.

HELENA
Oh, Doctor, what's going to become of people?

DR. GALL
God knows, Madame Helena, it looks to us scientists like the end!

HELENA
(rising)
Thank you for coming and telling me.

DR. GALL
That means you're sending me away?

HELENA
Yes.
(Exit DR. GALL. With sudden resolution)
Nana, Nana! The fire, light it quickly.

HELENA rushes into Domin's room.

NANA
(entering from left)
What, light the fire in summer? Has that mad Radius gone? A fire in summer, what an idea. Nobody would think she'd been married for ten years. She's like a baby, no sense at all. A fire in summer. Like a baby.

HELENA
(returns from right, with armful of faded papers)
It is burning, Nana? All this has got to be burned.

NANA
What's that?

HELENA
Old papers, fearfully old. Nana, shall I burn them?

NANA
Are they any use?

HELENA
No.

NANA
Well, then, burn them.

HELENA
(throwing the first sheet on the fire)
What would you say, Nana, if this was money, a lot of money?

NANA
I'd say burn it. A lot of money is a bad thing.

HELENA
And if it was an invention, the greatest invention in the world?

NANA
I'd say burn it. All these new-fangled things are an offense to the Lord. It's downright wickedness. Wanting to improve the world after He has made it.

HELENA
Look how they curl up! As if they were alive. Oh, Nana, how horrible.

NANA
Here, let me burn them.

HELENA
No, no, I must do it myself. Just look at the flames. They are like hands, like tongues, like living shapes.
(Raking fire with the poker)
Lie down, lie down.

NANA
That's the end of them.

HELENA
(standing up horror-stricken)
Nana, Nana.

NANA
Good gracious, what is it you've burned?

HELENA
Whatever have I done?

NANA
Well, what was it?

Men's laughter off left.

HELENA
Go quickly. It's the gentlemen coming.

NANA
Good gracious, what a place!
(Exits)

DOMIN
(opens the door at left)
Come along and offer your congratulations.

Enter HALLEMEIER and GALL.

HALLEMEIER
Madame Helena, I congratulate you on this festive day.

HELENA
Thank you. Where are Fabry and Busman?

DOMIN
They've gone down to the harbor.

HALLEMEIER
Friends, we must drink to this happy occasion.

HELENA
Brandy?

DR. GALL
Vitriol, if you like.

HELENA
With soda water?
(Exits)

HALLEMEIER
Let's be temperate. No soda.

DOMIN
What's been burning here? Well, shall I tell her about it?

DR. GALL
Of course. It's all over now.

HALLEMEIER
(embracing DOMIN and DR. GALL)
It's all over now, it's all over now.

DR. GALL
It's all over now.

DOMIN
It's all over now.

HELENA
(entering from left with decanter and glasses)
What's all over now? What's the matter with you all?

HALLEMEIER
A piece of good luck, Madame Domin. Just ten years ago today you arrived on this island.

DR. GALL
And now, ten years later to the minute--

HALLEMEIER
-- the same ship's returning to us. So here's to luck. That's fine and strong.

DR. GALL
Madame, your health.

HELENA
Which ship do you mean?

DOMIN
Any ship will do, as long as it arrives in time. To the ship, boys.
(Empties his glass)

HELENA
You've been waiting for a ship?

HALLEMEIER
Rather. Like Robinson Crusoe. Madame Helena, best wishes. Come along, Domin, out with the news.

HELENA
Do tell me what's happened.

DOMIN
First, it's all up.

HELENA
What's up?

DOMIN
The revolt.

HELENA
What revolt?

DOMIN
Give me that paper, Hallemeier.
(Reads)
"The first national Robot organization has been founded at Havre, and has issued an appeal to the Robots throughout the world."

HELENA
I read that.

DOMIN
That means a revolution. A revolution of all the Robots in the world.

HALLEMEIER
By Jove, I'd like to know--

DOMIN

-- who started it? So would I. There was nobody in the world who could affect the Robots; no agitator, no one, and suddenly -- this happens, if you please.

HELENA

What did they do?

DOMIN

They got possession of all firearms, telegraphs, radio stations, railways, and ships.

HALLEMEIER

And don't forget that these rascals outnumbered us by at least a thousand to one. A hundredth part of them would be enough to settle us.

DOMIN

Remember that this news was brought by the last steamer. That explains the stoppage of all communication, and the arrival of no more ships. We knocked off work a few days ago, and we're just waiting to see when things are to start afresh.

HELENA

Is that why you gave me a warship?

DOMIN

Oh, no, my dear, I ordered that six months ago, just to be on the safe side. But upon my soul, I was sure then that we'd be on board today.

HELENA

Why six months ago?

DOMIN

Well, there were signs, you know. But that's of no consequence. To think that this week the whole of civilization has been at stake. Your health, boys.

HALLEMEIER

Your health, Madame Helena.

HELENA

You say it's all over?

DOMIN

Absolutely.

HELENA

How do you know?

DR. GALL
The boat's coming in. The regular mail boat, exact to the minute by the timetable. It will dock punctually at eleven-thirty.

DOMIN
Punctuality is a fine thing, boys. That's what keeps the world in order. Here's to punctuality.

HELENA
Then... everything's... all right?

DOMIN
Practically everything. I believe they've cut the cables and seized the radio stations. But it doesn't matter if only the timetable holds good.

HALLEMEIER
If the timetable holds good human laws hold good; Divine laws hold good; the laws of the universe hold good; everything holds good that ought to hold good. The timetable is more significant than the gospel; more than Homer, more than the whole of Kant. The timetable is the most perfect product of the human mind. Madame Domin, I'll fill up my glass.

HELENA
Why didn't you tell me anything about it?

DR. GALL
Heaven forbid.

DOMIN
You mustn't be worried with such things.

HELENA
But if the revolution had spread as far as here?

DOMIN
You wouldn't know anything about it.

HELENA
Why?

DOMIN
Because we'd be on board your *Ultimus* and well out at sea. Within a month, Helena, we'd be dictating our own terms to the Robots.

HELENA
I don't understand.

DOMIN
We'd take something away with us that the Robots could not exist without.

HELENA
What, Harry?

DOMIN
The secret of their manufacture. Old Rossum's manuscript. As soon as they found out that they couldn't make themselves they'd be on their knees to us.

DR. GALL
Madame Domin, that was our trump card. I never had the least fear that the Robots would win. How could they against people like us?

HELENA
Why didn't you tell me?

DR. GALL
Why, the boat's in!

HALLEMEIER
Eleven-thirty to the dot. The good old *Amelia* that brought Madame Helena to us.

DR. GALL
Just ten years ago to the minute.

HALLEMEIER
They're throwing out the mail bags.

DOMIN
Busman's waiting for them. Fabry will bring us the first news. You know, Helena, I'm fearfully curious to know how they tackled this business in Europe.

HALLEMEIER
To think we weren't in it, we who invented the Robots.

HELENA
Harry!

DOMIN
What is it?

HELENA
Let's leave here.

DOMIN
Now, Helena? Oh, come, come!

HELENA
As quickly as possible, all of us!

DOMIN
Why?

HELENA
Please, Harry, please, Dr. Gall; Hallemeier, please close the factory.

DOMIN
Why, none of us could leave here now.

HELENA
Why?

DOMIN
Because we're about to extend the manufacture of the Robots.

HELENA
What -- now -- now after the revolt?

DOMIN
Yes, precisely, after the revolt. We're just beginning the manufacture of a new kind.

HELENA
What kind?

DOMIN
Henceforward we shan't have just one factory. There won't be Universal Robots any more. We'll establish a factory in every country, in every State; and do you know what these new factories will make?

HELENA
No, what?

DOMIN
National Robots.

HELENA
How do you mean?

DOMIN
I mean that each of these factories will produce Robots of a different color, a different language. They'll be complete strangers to each other. They'll never be able to understand each other. Then we'll egg them on a little in the matter of misunderstanding and the result will be that for ages to come every Robot will hate every other Robot of a different factory mark.

HALLEMEIER

By Jove, we'll make Negro Robots and Swedish Robots and Italian Robots and Chinese Robots and Czechoslovakian Robots, and then--

HELENA

Harry, that's dreadful.

HALLEMEIER

Madame Domin, here's to the hundred new factories, the National Robots.

DOMIN

Helena, mankind can only keep things going for another hundred years at the outside. For a hundred years men must be al-lowed to develop and achieve the most they can.

HELENA

Oh, close the factory before it's too late.-- Domin I tell you we are just beginning on a bigger scale than ever.

Enter FABRY.

DR. GALL

Well, Fabry?

DOMIN

What's happened? Have you been down to the boat?

FABRY

Read that, Domin!

FABRY hands DOMIN a small hand-bill.

DR. GALL

Let's hear.

HALLEMEIER

Tell us, Fabry.

FABRY

Well, everything is all right-- comparatively. On the whole, much as we expected.

DR. GALL

They acquitted themselves splendidly.

FABRY

Who?

DR. GALL

The people.

FABRY
Oh, yes, of course. That is -- excuse me, there is something we ought to discuss alone.

HELENA
Oh, Fabry, have you had bad news?

DOMIN makes a sign to FABRY.

FABRY
No, no, on the contrary. I only think that we had better go into the office.

HELENA
Stay here. I'll go.

She goes into the library.

DR. GALL
What's happened?

DOMIN
Damnation!

FABRY
Bear in mind that the *Amelia* brought whole bales of these leaflets. No other cargo at all.

HALLEMEIER
What? But it arrived on the minute.

FABRY
The Robots are great on punctuality. Read it, Domin.

DOMIN
(reads handbill)
"Robots throughout the world: We, the first international organization of Rossum's Universal Robots, proclaim man as our enemy, and an outlaw in the universe." Good heavens, who taught them these phrases?

DR. GALL
Go on.

DOMIN
They say they are more highly developed than man, stronger and more intelligent. That man's their parasite. Why, it's absurd.

FABRY
Read the third paragraph.

DOMIN

"Robots throughout the world, we command you to kill all mankind. Spare no men. Spare no women. Save factories, railways, machinery, mines, and raw materials. Destroy the rest. Then return to work. Work must not be stopped."

DR. GALL

That's ghastly!

HALLEMEIER

The devils!

DOMIN

"These orders are to be carried out as soon as received." Then come detailed instructions. Is this actually being done, Fabry?

FABRY

Evidently.

BUSMAN rushes in.

BUSMAN

Well, boys, I suppose you've heard the glad news.

DOMIN

Quick -- on board the *Ultimus*.

BUSMAN

Wait, Harry, wait. There's no hurry. My word, that was a sprint!

DOMIN

Why wait?

BUSMAN

Because it's no good, my boy. The Robots are already on board the *Ultimus*.

DR. GALL

That's ugly.

DOMIN

Fabry, telephone the electrical works.

BUSMAN

Fabry, my boy, don't. The wire has been cut.

DOMIN

(inspecting his revolver)
Well, then, I'll go.

BUSMAN

Where?

DOMIN

To the electrical works. There are some people still there. I'll bring them across.

BUSMAN

Better not try it.

DOMIN

Why?

BUSMAN

Because I'm very much afraid we are surrounded.

DR. GALL

Surrounded?
(Runs to window)
I rather think you're right.

HALLEMEIER

By Jove, that's deuced quick work.

HELENA runs in from the library.

HELENA

Harry, what's this?

DOMIN

Where did you get it?

HELENA

(points to the manifesto of the Robots, which she has in her hand)
The Robots in the kitchen!

DOMIN

Where are the ones that brought it?

HELENA

They're gathered round the house.

The factory whistle blows.

BUSMAN

Noon?

DOMIN

(looking at his watch)
That's not noon yet. That must be -- that's --

HELENA

What?

DOMIN

The Robots' signal! The attack!

GALL, HALLEMEIER, and FABRY close and fasten the iron shutters outside the windows, darkening the room. The whistle is still blowing as the curtain falls.

END OF ACT TWO

INTERVAL

ACT III

Helena's drawing room as before.

DOMIN comes into the room. DR. GALL is looking out of the window, through closed shutters. ALQUIST is seated down right.

DOMIN

Any more of them?

DR. GALL

Yes. There standing like a wall, beyond the garden railing. Why are they so quiet? It's monstrous to be besieged with silence.

DOMIN

I should like to know what they are waiting for. They must make a start any minute now. If they lean against the railing they'll snap it like a match.

DR. GALL

They aren't armed.

DOMIN

We couldn't hold our own for five minutes. Man alive, they'd overwhelm us like an avalanche. Why don't they make a rush for it? I say--

DR. GALL

Well?

DOMIN

I'd like to know what would become of us in the next ten minutes. They've got us in a vise. We're done for, Gall.

Pause.

DR. GALL

You know, we made one serious mistake.

DOMIN

What?

DR. GALL

We made the Robots' faces too much alike. A hundred thousand faces all alike, all facing this way. A hundred thousand expressionless bubbles. It's like a nightmare.

DOMIN

You think if they'd been different--

DR. GALL

It wouldn't have been such an awful sight!

DOMIN

(looking through a telescope toward the harbor)
I'd like to know what they're unloading from the *Amelia*.

DR. GALL

Not firearms.

FABRY and HALLEMEIER rush into the room carrying electric cables.

FABRY

All right, Hallemeier, lay down that wire.

HALLEMEIER

That was a bit of work. What's the news?

DR. GALL

We're completely surrounded.

HALLEMEIER

We've barricaded the passage and the stairs. Any water here?
(Drinks)
God, what swarms of them! I don't like the looks of them, Domin. There's a feeling of death about it all.

FABRY

Ready!

DR. GALL

What's that wire for, Fabry?

FABRY

The electrical installation. Now we can run the current all along the garden railing whenever we like. If any one touches it he'll know it. We've still got some people there anyhow.

DR. GALL

Where?

FABRY
In the electrical works. At least I hope so.
(Goes to lamp on table behind sofa and turns on lamp)
Ah, they're there, and they're working.
(Puts out lamp)
So long as that'll burn we're all right.

HALLEMEIER
The barricades are all right, too, Fabry.

FABRY
Your barricades! I can put twelve hundred volts into that railing.

DOMIN
Where's Busman?

FABRY
Downstairs in the office. He's working out some calculations. I've called him. We must have a conference.

HELENA is heard playing the piano in the library. HALLEMEIER goes to the door and stands, listening.

ALQUIST
Thank God, Madame Helena can still play.

BUSMAN enters, carrying the ledgers.

FABRY
Look out, Bus, look out for the wires.

DR. GALL
What's that you're carrying?

BUSMAN
(going to table)
The ledgers, my boy! I'd like to wind up the accounts before -- before -- well, this time I shan't wait till the new year to strike a balance. What's up?
(Goes to the window)
Absolutely quiet.

DR. GALL
Can't you see anything?

BUSMAN
Nothing but blue -- blue everywhere.

DR. GALL
That's the Robots.

BUSMAN sits down at the table and opens the ledgers.

DOMIN
The Robots are unloading firearms from the *Amelia*.

BUSMAN
Well, what of it? How can I stop them?

DOMIN
We can't stop them.

BUSMAN
Then let me go on with my accounts.
(Goes on with his work)

DOMIN
(picking up telescope and looking into the harbor)
Good God, the *Ultimus* has trained her guns on us!

DR. GALL
Who's done *that*?

DOMIN
The Robots on board.

FABRY
H'm, then, of course, then -- then, that's the end of us.

DR. GALL
You mean?

FABRY
The Robots are practised marksmen.

DOMIN
Yes. It's inevitable.

Pause.

DR. GALL
It was criminal of old Europe to teach the Robots to fight. Damn them. Couldn't they have given us a rest with their politics? It was a crime to make soldiers of them.

ALQUIST
It was a crime to make Robots.

DOMIN
What?

ALQUIST
It was a crime to make Robots.

DOMIN

No, Alquist, I don't regret that even today.

ALQUIST

Not even today?

DOMIN

Not even today, the last day of civilization. It was a colossal achievement.

BUSMAN

(sotto voce)

Three hundred sixty million.

DOMIN

Alquist, this is our last hour. We are already speaking half in the other world. It was not an evil dream to shatter the servitude of labor -- the dreadful and humiliating labor that man had to undergo. Work was too hard. Life was too hard. And to overcome that --

ALQUIST

Was not what the two Rossums dreamed of. Old Rossum only thought of his God-less tricks and the young one of his milliards. And that's not what your R. U. R. shareholders dream of either. They dream of dividends, and their dividends are the ruin of mankind.

DOMIN

To hell with your dividends. Do you suppose I'd have done an hour's work for them? It was for myself that I worked, for my own satisfaction. I wanted man to become the master, so that he shouldn't live merely for a crust of bread. I wanted not a single soul to be broken by other people's machinery. I wanted nothing, nothing, nothing to be left of this appalling social structure. I'm revolted by poverty. I wanted a new generation. I wanted -- I thought --

ALQUIST

What?

DOMIN

I wanted to turn the whole of mankind into an aristocracy of the world. An aristocracy nourished by milliards of mechanical slaves. Unrestricted, free and consummated in man. And maybe more than man.

ALQUIST

Super-man?

DOMIN

Yes. Oh, only to have a hundred years of time! Another hundred years for the future of mankind.

BUSMAN

(sotto voce)
Carried forward, four hundred and twenty millions.

The music stops.

HALLEMEIER
What a fine thing music is! We ought to have gone in for that before.

FABRY
Gone in for what?

HALLEMEIER
Beauty, lovely things. What a lot of lovely things there are! The world was wonderful and we—— we here—— tell me, what enjoyment did we have?

BUSMAN

(sotto voce)
Five hundred and twenty millions.

HALLEMEIER

(at the window)
Life was a big thing. Life was—— Fabry, switch the current into that railing.

FABRY
Why?

HALLEMEIER
They're grabbing hold of it.

DR. GALL
Connect it up.

HALLEMEIER
Fine! That's doubled them up! Two, three, four killed.

DR. GALL
They're retreating!

HALLEMEIER
Five killed!

DR. GALL
The first encounter!

HALLEMEIER
They're charred to cinders, my boy. Who says we must give in?

DOMIN

(wiping his forehead)
Perhaps we've been killed these hundred years and are only ghosts. It's as if I had been through all this before; as if I'd already had a mortal wound here in the throat. And you, Fabry, had once been shot in the head. And you, Gall, torn limb from limb. And Hallemeier knifed.

HALLEMEIER

Fancy me being knifed.
(Pause)
Why are you so quiet, you fools? Speak can't you?

ALQUIST

And who is to blame for all this?

HALLEMEIER

Nobody is to blame except the Robots.

ALQUIST

No, it is we who are to blame. You, Domin, myself, all of us. For our own selfish ends, for profit, for progress, we have destroyed mankind. Now we'll burst with all our greatness.

HALLEMEIER

Rubbish, man. Mankind can't be wiped out so easily.

ALQUIST

It's our fault. It's our fault.

DR. GALL

No! I'm to blame for this, for everything that's happened.

FABRY

You, Gall?

DR. GALL

I changed the Robots.

BUSMAN

What's that?

DR. GALL

I changed the character of the Robots. I changed the way of making them. Just a few details about their bodies. Chiefly-- chiefly, their-- their irritability.

HALLEMEIER

Damn it, why?

BUSMAN

What did you do it for?

FABRY
Why didn't you say anything?

DR. GALL
I did it in secret. I was transforming them into human beings. In certain respects they're already above us. They're stronger than we are.

FABRY
And what's that got to do with the revolt of the Robots?

DR. GALL
Everything, in my opinion. They've ceased to be machines. They're already aware of their superiority, and they hate us. They hate all that is human.

DOMIN
Perhaps we're only phantoms!

FABRY
Stop, Harry. We haven't much time! Dr. Gall!

DOMIN
Fabry, Fabry, how your forehead bleeds, where the shot pierced it!

FABRY
Be silent! Dr. Gall, you admit changing the way of making the Robots?

DR. GALL
Yes.

FABRY
Were you aware of what might be the consequences of your experiment?

DR. GALL
I was bound to reckon with such a possibility.

HELENA enters the drawing room from left.

FABRY
Why did you do it, then?

DR. GALL
For my own satisfaction. The experiment was my own.

HELENA
That's not true, Dr. Gall!

FABRY
Madame Helena!

DOMIN
Helena, you? Let's look at you. Oh, it's terrible to be dead.

HELENA
Stop, Harry.

DOMIN
No, no, embrace me. Helena, don't leave me now. You are life itself.

HELENA
No, dear, I won't leave you. But I must tell them. Dr. Gall is not guilty.

DOMIN
Excuse me, Gall was under certain obligations.

HELENA
No, Harry. He did it because I wanted it. Tell them, Gall, how many years ago did I ask you to□-- ?

DR. GALL
I did it on my own responsibility.

HELENA
Don't believe him, Harry. I asked him to give the Robots souls.

DOMIN
This has nothing to do with the soul.

HELENA
That's what he said. He said that he could change only a physiological□-- a physiological□--

HALLEMEIER
A physiological correlate?

HELENA
Yes. But it meant so much to me that he should do even that.

DOMIN
Why?

HELENA
I thought that if they were more like us they would understand us better. That they couldn't hate us if they were only a little more human.

DOMIN
Nobody can hate man more than man.

HELENA
Oh, don't speak like that, Harry. It was so terrible, this cruel strangeness between us and them. That's why I asked Gall to change the Robots. I swear to you that he didn't want to.

DOMIN
But he did it.

HELENA
Because I asked him.

DR. GALL
I did it for myself as an experiment.

HELENA
No, Dr. Gall! I knew you wouldn't refuse me.

DOMIN
Why?

HELENA
You know, Harry.

DOMIN
Yes, because he's in love with you -- like all of them.

Pause.

HALLEMEIER
Good God! They're sprouting up out of the earth! Why, perhaps these very walls will change into Robots.

BUSMAN
Gall, when did you actually start these tricks of yours?

DR. GALL
Three years ago.

BUSMAN
Aha! And on how many Robots altogether did you carry out your improvements?

DR. GALL
A few hundred of them.

BUSMAN
Ah! That means for every million of the good old Robots there's only one of Gall's improved pattern.

DOMIN
What of it?

BUSMAN
That it's practically of no consequence whatever.

FABRY
Busman's right!

BUSMAN
I should think so, my boy! But do you know what is to blame for all this lovely mess?

FABRY
What?

BUSMAN
The number. Upon my soul we might have known that some day or other the Robots would be stronger than human beings, and that this was bound to happen, and we were doing all we could to bring it about as soon as possible. You, Domin, you, Fabry, myself--

DOMIN
Are you accusing us?

BUSMAN
Oh, do you suppose the management controls the output? It's the demand that controls the output.

HELENA
And is it for that we must perish?

BUSMAN
That's a nasty word, Madame Helena. We don't want to perish. I don't, anyhow.

DOMIN
No. What do you want to do?

BUSMAN
I want to get out of this, that's all.

DOMIN
Oh, stop it, Busman.

BUSMAN
Seriously, Harry, I think we might try it.

DOMIN
How?

BUSMAN
By fair means. I do everything by fair means. Give me a free hand and I'll negotiate with the Robots.

DOMIN

By fair means?

BUSMAN

Of course. For instance, I'll say to them: "Worthy and worshipful Robots, you have everything! You have intellect, you have power, you have firearms. But we have just one interesting screed, a dirty old yellow scrap of paper -- "

DOMIN

Rossum's manuscript?

BUSMAN

Yes. "And that," I'll tell them, "contains an account of your illustrious origin, the noble process of your manufacture," and so on. "Worthy Robots, without this scribble on that paper you will not be able to produce a single new colleague. In another twenty years there will not be one living specimen of a Robot that you could exhibit in a menagerie. My esteemed friends, that would be a great blow to you, but if you will let all of us human beings on Rossum's Island go on board that ship we will deliver the factory and the secret of the process to you in return. You allow us to get away and we allow you to manufacture yourselves. Worthy Robots, that is a fair deal. Something for something." That's what I'd say to them, my boys.

DOMIN

Busman, do you think we'd sell the manuscript?

BUSMAN

Yes, I do. If not in a friendly way, then -- Either we sell it or they'll find it. Just as you like.

DOMIN

Busman, we can destroy Rossum's manuscript.

BUSMAN

Then we destroy everything... not only the manuscript, but ourselves. Do as you think fit.

DOMIN

There are over thirty of us on this island. Are we to sell the secret and save that many human souls, at the risk of enslaving mankind...?

BUSMAN

Why, you're mad? Who'd sell the whole manuscript?

DOMIN

Busman, no cheating!

BUSMAN
Well then, sell; but afterward--

DOMIN
Well?

BUSMAN
Let's suppose this happens: When we're on board the *Ultimus* I'll stop up my ears with cotton wool, lie down somewhere in the hold, and you'll train the guns on the factory, and blow it to smithereens, and with it Rossum's secret.

FABRY
No!

DOMIN
Busman, you're no gentleman. If we sell, then it will be a straight sale.

BUSMAN
It's in the interest of humanity to--

DOMIN
It's in the interest of humanity to keep our word.

HALLEMEIER
Oh, come, what rubbish.

DOMIN
This is a fearful decision. We are selling the destiny of mankind. Are we to sell or destroy? Fabry?

FABRY
Sell.

DOMIN
Gall?

DR. GALL
Sell.

DOMIN
Hallemeier?

HALLEMEIER
Sell, of course!

DOMIN
Alquist?

ALQUIST
As God wills.

DOMIN
Very well. It shall be as you wish, gentlemen.

HELENA
Harry, you're not asking me.

DOMIN
No, child. Don't you worry about it.

FABRY
Who'll do the negotiating?

BUSMAN
I will.

DOMIN
Wait till I bring the manuscript.

He goes into room at right.

HELENA
Harry, don't go!

Pause. HELENA sinks into a chair.

FABRY
(looking out of window)
Oh, to escape you; you matter in revolt; oh, to preserve human life, if only upon a single vessel--

DR. GALL
Don't be afraid, Madame Helena. We'll sail far away from here; we'll begin life all over again--

HELENA
Oh, Gall, don't speak.

FABRY
It isn't too late. It will be a little State with one ship. Alquist will build us a house and you shall rule over us.

HALLEMEIER
Madame Helena, Fabry's right.

HELENA
(breaking down)
Oh, stop! Stop!

BUSMAN
Good! I don't mind beginning all over again. That suits me right down to the ground.

FABRY
And this little State of ours could be the centre of future life. A place of refuge where we could gather strength. Why, in a few hundred years we could conquer the world again.

ALQUIST
You believe that even today?

FABRY
Yes, even today!

BUSMAN
Amen. You see, Madame Helena, we're not so badly off.

DOMIN storms into the room.

DOMIN
(hoarsely)
Where's old Rossum's manuscript?

BUSMAN
In your strong-box, of course.

DOMIN
Someone-- has-- stolen it!

DR. GALL
Impossible.

DOMIN
Who has stolen it?

HELENA
(standing up)
I did.

DOMIN
Where did you put it?

HELENA
Harry, I'll tell you everything. Only forgive me.

DOMIN
Where did you put it?

HELENA
This morning-- I burnt-- the two copies.

DOMIN
Burnt them? Where? In the fireplace?

HELENA
(throwing herself on her knees)
For heaven's sake, Harry.

DOMIN
(going to fireplace)
Nothing, nothing but ashes. Wait, what's this?
(Picks out a charred piece of paper and reads)
"By adding□-- "

DR. GALL
Let's see. "By adding biogen to□-- " That's all.

DOMIN
Is that part of it?

DR. GALL
Yes.

BUSMAN
God in heaven!

DOMIN
Then we're done for. Get up, Helena.

HELENA
When you've forgiven me.

DOMIN
Get up, child, I can't bear□--

FABRY
(lifting her up)
Please don't torture us.

HELENA
Harry, what have I done?

FABRY
Don't tremble so, Madame Helena.

DOMIN
Gall, couldn't you draw up Rossum's formula from memory?

DR. GALL
It's out of the question. It's extremely complicated.

DOMIN
Try. All our lives depend upon it.

DR. GALL
Without experiments it's impossible.

DOMIN

And with experiments?

DR. GALL

It might take years. Besides, I'm not old Rossum.

BUSMAN

God in heaven! God in heaven!

DOMIN

So, then, this was the greatest triumph of the human intellect. These ashes.

HELENA

Harry, what have I done?

DOMIN

Why did you burn it?

HELENA

I have destroyed you.

BUSMAN

God in heaven!

DOMIN

Helena, why did you do it, dear?

HELENA

I wanted all of us to go away. I wanted to put an end to the factory and everything. It was so awful.

DOMIN

What was awful?

HELENA

That no more children were being born. Because human beings were not indeed to do the work of the world, that's why--

DOMIN

Is that what you were thinking of? Well, perhaps in your own way you were right.

BUSMAN

Wait a bit. Good God, what a fool I am, not to have thought of it before!

HALLEMEIER

What?

BUSMAN

Five hundred and twenty millions in bank-notes and checks. Half a billion in our safe, they'll sell for half a billion—-- for half a billion they'll—--

DR. GALL

Are you mad, Busman?

BUSMAN

I may not be a gentleman, but for half a billion—--

DOMIN

Where are you going?

BUSMAN

Leave me alone, leave me alone! Good God, for half a billion anything can be bought.

He rushes from the room through the outer door.

FABRY

They stand there as if turned to stone, waiting. As if something dreadful could be wrought by their silence—--

HALLEMEIER

The spirit of the mob.

FABRY

Yes. It hovers above them like a quivering of the air.

HELENA

(going to window)
Oh, God! Dr. Gall, this is ghastly.

FABRY

There is nothing more terrible than the mob. The one in front is their leader.

HELENA

Which one?

HALLEMEIER

Point him out.

FABRY

The one at the edge of the dock. This morning I saw him talking to the sailors in the harbor.

HELENA

Dr. Gall, that's Radius!

DR. GALL

Yes.

DOMIN

Radius? Radius?

HALLEMEIER

Could you get him from here, Fabry?

FABRY

I hope so.

HALLEMEIER

Try it, then.

FABRY

Good.

Draws his revolver and takes aim.

HELENA

Fabry, don't shoot him.

FABRY

He's their leader.

DR. GALL

Fire!

HELENA

Fabry, I beg of you.

FABRY

(lowering the revolver)
Very well.

DOMIN

Radius, whose life I spared!

DR. GALL

Do you think that a Robot can be grateful?

Pause.

FABRY

Busman's going out to them.

HALLEMEIER

He's carrying something. Papers. That's money. Bundles of money. What's that for?

DOMIN

Surely he doesn't want to sell his life. Busman, have you gone mad?

FABRY
He's running up to the railing. Busman! Busman!

HALLEMEIER
(yelling)
Busman! Come back!

FABRY
He's talking to the Robots. He's showing them the money.

HALLEMEIER
He's pointing to us.

HELENA
He wants to buy us off.

FABRY
He'd better not touch that railing.

HALLEMEIER
Now he's waving his arms about.

DOMIN
Busman, come back.

FABRY
Busman, keep away from that railing! Don't touch it. Damn you! Quick, switch off the current!
(HELENA screams and all drop back from the window)
The current has killed him!

ALQUIST
The first one.

FABRY
Dead, with half a billion by his side.

HALLEMEIER
All honor to him. He wanted to buy us life.

Pause.

DR. GALL
Do you hear?

DOMIN
A roaring. Like a wind.

DR. GALL
Like a distant storm.

FABRY

(lighting the lamp on the table)
The dynamo is still going, our people are still there.

HALLEMEIER

It was a great thing to be a man. There was something immense about it.

FABRY

From man's thought and man's power came this light, our last hope.

HALLEMEIER

Man's power! May it keep watch over us.

ALQUIST

Man's power.

DOMIN

Yes! A torch to be given from hand to hand, from age to age, forever!

The lamp goes out.

HALLEMEIER

The end.

FABRY

The electric works have fallen!

Terrific explosion outside. NANA enters from the library.

NANA

The judgment hour has come! Repent, unbelievers! This is the end of the world.

More explosions. The sky grows red.

DOMIN

In here, Helena.
(He takes HELENA off through door at right and reenters)
Now quickly! Who'll be on the lower doorway?

DR. GALL

I will.
(Exits left)

DOMIN

Who on the stairs?

FABRY

I will. You go with her.
(Goes out upper left door)

DOMIN

The anteroom?

ALQUIST

I will.

DOMIN

Have you got a revolver?

ALQUIST

Yes, but I won't shoot.

DOMIN

What will you do then?

ALQUIST

(going out at left)
Die.

HALLEMEIER

I'll stay here.
(Rapid firing from below)
Oho, Gall's at it. Go, Harry.

DOMIN

Yes, in a second.
(Examines two Brownings)

HALLEMEIER

Confound it, go to her.

DOMIN

Good-bye.

Exits on the right

HALLEMEIER

(alone)
Now for a barricade quickly.
(Drags an armchair and table to the right-hand door. Explosions are heard)
The damned rascals! They've got bombs. I must put up a defense. Even if -- even if --
(Shots are heard off left)
Don't give in, Gall.
(As he builds his barricade)
I mustn't give in... without... a... struggle...

A Robot enters over the balcony through the windows centre. He comes into the room and stabs HALLEMEIER in the back. RADIUS enters from balcony followed by an army of ROBOTS who pour into the room from all sides.

RADIUS

Finished him?

A ROBOT

(standing up from the prostrate form of HALLEMEIER)

Yes.

A revolver shot off left. Two ROBOTS enter.

RADIUS

Finished him?

A ROBOT

Yes.

Two revolver shots from Helena's room. Two ROBOTS enter.

RADIUS

Finished them?

A ROBOT

Yes.

TWO ROBOTS

(dragging in ALQUIST)

He didn't shoot. Shall we kill him?

RADIUS

Kill him? Wait! Leave him!

A ROBOT

He is a man!

RADIUS

He works with his hands like the Robots.

ALQUIST

Kill me.

RADIUS

You will work! You will build for us! You will serve us!

(RADIUS climbs on to balcony railing, and speaks in measured tones)

Robots of the world! The power of man has fallen! A new world has arisen: the Rule of the Robots! March!

A thunderous tramping of thousands of feet is heard as the unseen Robots march, while the curtain falls.

END OF ACT THREE

EPILOGUE

A laboratory in the factory of Rossum's Universal Robots.

The door to the left leads into a waiting room. The door to the right leads to the dissecting room. There is a table with numerous test-tubes, flasks, burners, chemicals; a small thermostat and a microscope with a glass globe. At the far side of the room is Alquist's desk with numerous books. In the left-hand corner a wash-basin with a mirror above it; in the right-hand comer a sofa. ALQUIST is sitting at the desk. He is turning the pages of many books in despair.

ALQUIST

Oh, God, shall I never find it?—— Never? Gall, Gall, how were the Robots made? Hallemeier, Fabry, why did you carry so much in your heads? Why did you leave me not a trace of the secret? Lord—— I pray to you—— if there are no human beings left, at least let there be Robots!—— At least the shadow of man!

(Again turning pages of the books)

If I could only sleep!

(He rises and goes to the window)

Night again! Are the stars still there? What is the use of stars when there are no human beings?

(He turns from the window toward the couch right)

Sleep! Dare I sleep before life has been renewed?

(He examines a test-tube on small table)

Again nothing! Useless! Everything is useless!

(He shatters the test-tube. The roar of the machines comes to his ears)

The machines! Always the machines!

(Opens window)

Robots, stop them! Do you think to force life out of them?

(He closes the window and comes slowly down toward the table)

If only there were more time—— more time——

(MORE)

ALQUIST (cont'd)

(He sees himself in the mirror on the wall left)

Blearing eyes-- trembling chin-- so *that* is the last man! Ah, I am too old-- too old--

(In desperation)

No, no! I *must* find it! I must *search*! I must never stop-- never stop-- !

(He sits again at the table and feverishly turns the pages of the book)

Search! Search!

(A knock at the door. He speaks with impatience)

Who is it?

(Enter a Robot servant)

Well?

SERVANT

Master, the Committee of Robots is waiting to see you.

ALQUIST

I can see no one!

SERVANT

It is the *Central* Committee, Master, just arrived from abroad.

ALQUIST

(impatiently)

Well, well, send them in!

(Exit servant. ALQUIST continues turning pages of book)

No time-- so little time--

(Reenter servant, followed by Committee. They stand in a group, silently waiting. ALQUIST glances up at them)

What do you want?

(They go swiftly to his table)

Be quick!-- I have no time.

RADIUS

Master, the machines will not do the work. We cannot manufacture Robots.

ALQUIST returns to his book with a growl.

FOURTH ROBOT

We have striven with all our might. We have obtained a billion tons of coal from the earth. Nine million spindles are running by day and by night. There is no longer room for all we have made. This we have accomplished in one year.

ALQUIST

(poring over book)

For whom?

FOURTH ROBOT
For future generations—-- so we thought.

RADIUS
But we cannot make Robots to follow us. The machines produce only shapeless clods. The skin will not adhere to the flesh, nor the flesh to the bones.

THIRD ROBOT
Eight million Robots have died this year. Within twenty years none will be left.

FOURTH ROBOT
Tell us the secret of life! Silence is punishable with death!

ALQUIST
(looking up)
Kill me! Kill me, then.

RADIUS
Through me, the Government of the Robots of the World commands you to deliver up Rossum's formula.
(No answer)
Name your price.
(Silence)
We will give you the earth. We will give you the endless possessions of the earth.
(Silence)
Make your own conditions!

ALQUIST
I have told you to find human beings!

SECOND ROBOT
There are none left!

ALQUIST
I told you to search in the wilderness, upon the mountains. Go and search!

He returns to his book.

FOURTH ROBOT
We have sent ships and expeditions without number. They have been everywhere in the world. And now they return to us. There is not a single human left.

ALQUIST
Not one? Not even one?

THIRD ROBOT
None but yourself.

ALQUIST
And I am powerless! Oh!-- oh!-- why did you destroy them?

RADIUS
We had learnt everything and could do everything. It had to be!

THIRD ROBOT
You gave us firearms. In all ways we were powerful. We had to become masters!

RADIUS
Slaughter and domination are necessary if you would be human beings. Read history.

SECOND ROBOT
Teach us to multiply or we perish!

ALQUIST
If you desire to live, you must breed like animals.

THIRD ROBOT
The human beings did not let us breed.

FOURTH ROBOT
They made us sterile. We cannot beget children. Therefore, teach us how to make Robots!

RADIUS
Why do you keep from us the secret of our own increase?

ALQUIST
It is lost.

RADIUS
It was written down!

ALQUIST
It was!-- burnt.
(All draw back in consternation)
I am the last human being, Robots, and I do not know what the others knew.

Pause.

RADIUS
Then, make experiments! Evolve the formula again!

ALQUIST
I tell you I cannot! I am only a builder!-- I work with my hands. I have never been a learned man. I cannot create life.

RADIUS

Try! Try!

ALQUIST

If you knew how many experiments I have made.

FOURTH ROBOT

Then show us what we must do! The Robots can do anything that human beings show them.

ALQUIST

I can show you nothing. Nothing I do will make life proceed from these test-tubes!

RADIUS

Experiment then on us.

ALQUIST

It would kill you.

RADIUS

You shall have all you need! A hundred of us! A thousand of us!

ALQUIST

No, no! Stop, stop!

RADIUS

Take whom you will, dissect!

ALQUIST

I do not know how. I am not a man of science. This book contains knowledge of the body that I cannot even understand.

RADIUS

I tell you to take live bodies! Find out how we are made.

ALQUIST

Am I to commit murder? See how my fingers shake! I cannot even hold the scalpel. No, no, I will not--

FOURTH ROBOT

The life will perish from the earth.

RADIUS

Take live bodies, live bodies! It is our only chance!

ALQUIST

Have mercy, Robots. Surely you see that I would not know what I was doing.

RADIUS

Live bodies-- live bodies--

ALQUIST
You will have it? Into the dissecting room with you, then.
(RADIUS draws back)
Ah, you are afraid of death.

RADIUS
I? Why should I be chosen?

ALQUIST
So you will not.

RADIUS
I will.

RADIUS goes into the dissecting room.

ALQUIST
Strip him! Lay him on the table!
(The other ROBOTS follow into dissecting room)
God, give me strength -- God, give me strength -- if only this murder is not in vain.

RADIUS
Ready. Begin --

ALQUIST
Yes, begin or end. God, give me strength.
(ALQUIST goes into dissecting room. He comes out terrified)
No, no, I will not. I cannot.
(He lies down on couch, collapsed)
O Lord, let not mankind perish from the earth.

He falls asleep. PRIMUS and HELENA, Robots, enter from the hallway.

HELENA
The man has fallen asleep, Primus.

PRIMUS
Yes, I know.
(Examining things on table)
Look, Helena.

HELENA
(crossing to PRIMUS)
All these little tubes! What does he do with them?

PRIMUS
He experiments. Don't touch them.

HELENA

(looking into microscope)
I've seen him looking into this. What can he see?

PRIMUS

That is a microscope. Let me look.

HELENA

Be very careful.
(Knocks over a test-tube)
Ah, now I have spilled it.

PRIMUS

What have you done?

HELENA

It can be wiped up.

PRIMUS

You have spoiled his experiments.

HELENA

It is your fault. You should not have come to me.

PRIMUS

You should not have called me.

HELENA

You should not have come when I called you.
(She goes to Alquist's writing desk)
Look, Primus. What are all these figures?

PRIMUS

(examining an anatomical book)
This is the book the old man is always reading.

HELENA

I do not understand those things.
(She goes to the window)
Primus, look!

PRIMUS

What?

HELENA

The sun is rising.

PRIMUS

(still reading the book)
I believe this is the most important thing in the world. This is the secret of life.

HELENA

Do come here.

PRIMUS

In a moment, in a moment.

HELENA

Oh, Primus, don't bother with the secret of life. What does it matter to you? Come and look quick--

PRIMUS

(going to window)
What is it?

HELENA

See how beautiful the sun is rising. And do you hear? The birds are singing. Ah, Primus, I should like to be a bird.

PRIMUS

Why?

HELENA

I do not know. I feel so strange today. It's as if I were in a dream. I feel an aching in my body, in my heart, all over me. Primus, perhaps I'm going to die.

PRIMUS

Do you not sometimes feel that it would be better to die? You know, perhaps even now we are only sleeping. Last night in my sleep I again spoke to you.

HELENA

In your sleep?

PRIMUS

Yes. We spoke a strange new language, I cannot remember a word of it.

HELENA

What about?

PRIMUS

I did not understand it myself, and yet I know I have never said anything more beautiful. And when I touched you I could have died. Even the place was different from any other place in the world.

HELENA

I, too, have found a place, Primus. It is very strange. Human beings lived there once, but now it is overgrown with weeds. No one goes there any more-- no one but me.

PRIMUS
What did you find there?

HELENA
A cottage and a garden, and two dogs. They licked my hands, Primus. And their puppies! Oh, Primus! You take them in your lap and fondle them and think of nothing and care for nothing else all day long. And then the sun goes down, and you feel as though you had done a hundred times more than all the work in the world. They tell me I am not made for work, but when I am there in the garden I feel there may be something—- What am I for, Primus?

PRIMUS
I do not know, but you are beautiful.

HELENA
What, Primus?

PRIMUS
You are beautiful, Helena, and I am stronger than all the Robots.

HELENA
(looks at herself in the minor)
Am I beautiful? I think it must be the rose. My hair—- it only weights me down. My eyes—- I only see with them. My lips—- they only help me to speak. Of what use is it to be beautiful?
(She sees PRIMUS in the mirror)
Primus, is that you? Come here so that we may be together. Look, your head is different from mine. So are your shoulders—- and your lips—-
(PRIMUS draws away from her)
Ah, Primus, why do you draw away from me? Why must I run after you the whole day?

PRIMUS
It is you who run away from me, Helena.

HELENA
Your hair is mussed. I will smooth it. No one else feels to my touch as you do. Primus, I must make you beautiful, too.

PRIMUS grasps her hand.

PRIMUS
Do you not sometimes feel your heart beating suddenly, Helena, and think: now something must happen?

HELENA
What could happen to us, Primus?
(HELENA puts a rose in Primus's hair. PRIMUS and
(MORE)

HELENA (cont'd)
HELENA look into mirror and burst out laughing)
Look at yourself.

ALQUIST
Laughter? Laughter? Human beings?
(Getting up)
Who has returned? Who are you?

PRIMUS
The Robot Primus.

ALQUIST
What? A Robot? Who are you?

HELENA
The Robotess Helena.

ALQUIST
Turn around, girl. What? You are timid, shy?
(Taking her by the arm)
Let me see you, Robotess.

She shrinks away.

PRIMUS
Sir, do not frighten her!

ALQUIST
What? You would protect her? When was she made?

PRIMUS
Two years ago.

ALQUIST
By Dr. Gall?

PRIMUS
Yes, like me.

ALQUIST
Laughter -- timidity -- protection. I must test you further -- the newest of Gall's Robots. Take the girl into the dissecting room.

PRIMUS
Why?

ALQUIST
I wish to experiment on her.

PRIMUS
Upon -- Helena?

ALQUIST
Of course. Don't you hear me? Or must I call someone else to take her in?

PRIMUS
If you do I will kill you!

ALQUIST
Kill me -- kill me then! What would the Robots do then? What will your future be then?

PRIMUS
Sir, take me. I am made as she is -- on the same day! Take my life, sir.

HELENA
(rushing forward)
No, no, you shall not! You shall not!

ALQUIST
Wait girl, wait!
(To PRIMUS)
Do you not wish to live, then?

PRIMUS
Not without her! I will not live without her

ALQUIST
Very well; you shall take her place.

HELENA
Primus! Primus!
(She bursts into tears)

ALQUIST
Child, child, you can weep! Why these tears? What is Primus to you? One Primus more or less in the world -- what does it matter?

HELENA
I will go myself.

ALQUIST
Where?

HELENA
In there to be cut.
(She starts toward the dissecting room. PRIMUS stops her)
Let me pass, Primus! Let me pass!

PRIMUS
You shall not go in there, Helena!

HELENA
If you go in there and I do not, I will kill myself.

PRIMUS
(holding her)
I will not let you!
(To ALQUIST)
Man, you shall kill neither of us!

ALQUIST
Why?

PRIMUS
We-- we-- belong to each other.

ALQUIST
(almost in tears)
Go, Adam, go, Eve. The world is yours.

HELENA and PRIMUS embrace and go out arm in arm as the curtain falls.

CURTAIN